

Appln. No.: 10/049,170
Amendment Dated: April 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2004

MAT-8211US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikeska in view of JP 11-121645. Claims 4-6, 11-14, 20 and 21, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, claims 15-19 have been allowed.

In response to the Official Action, the features of claim 4 have been added into claim 1 and claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 1. In addition, the features of claim 11 have been incorporated into claim 7 and claims 12, 13, and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 7.

Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled.

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia


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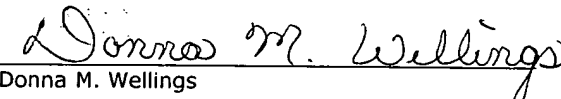
LEA/dmw

Dated: April 16, 2004

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